

Claims

- 1 1. A sailing craft, comprising:  
2 a frame;  
3 a main sail affixed to the frame;  
4 two buoyant wheels positioned on one side of the frame; and  
5 two buoyant wheels positioned the opposite side of the frame.
- 1 2. The sailing craft of claim 1 wherein each wheel comprises one or more fins on its  
2 perimeter.
- 1 3. The sailing craft of claim 2 wherein each of the wheels comprises a wheel body, and the  
2 one or more respective fins are affixed to each respective wheel body.
- 1 4. The sailing craft of claim 2 wherein each of the wheels comprises a wheel body, and the  
2 one or more respective fins are integral with each respective wheel body.
- 1 5. The sailing craft of claim 1 wherein at least two of the wheels are mounted to a respective  
2 axle that is attached to the frame such that each respective wheel can rotate about each respective  
3 axle.
- 1 6. The sailing craft of claim 1, wherein one or more of the wheels are configured to turn  
2 with respect to the direction of the craft at the direction of a sailor to provide steering.
- 1 7. The sailing craft of claim 6, wherein the forward one of the two buoyant wheels  
2 positioned on the one side of the frame and the forward one of the two buoyant wheels  
3 positioned on the opposite side of the frame each turn.
- 1 8. The sailing craft of claim 6, wherein the aft one of the two buoyant wheels positioned on  
2 the one side of the frame and the aft one of the two buoyant wheels positioned on the opposite  
3 side of the frame each turn.
- 1 9. The sailing craft of claim 1, further comprising two additional wheels, one additional  
2 wheel positioned on the one side of the frame and the other additional wheel positioned the  
3 opposite side of the frame.

- 1 10. The sailing craft of claim 1, wherein at least one of the wheels is designed to plane as  
2 speed increases.
- 1 11. The sailing craft of claim 1, wherein the frame is rectangular in shape.
- 1 12. The sailing craft of claim 11 wherein a deck is attached to the frame.
- 1 13. The sailing craft of claim 12 wherein the deck comprises a trampoline.
- 1 14. The sailing craft of claim 13 wherein the deck trampoline comprises polypropylene fabric  
2 attached to the frame.
- 1 15. The sailing craft of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a jib sail and a spinnaker  
2 sail.
- 1 16. The sailing craft of claim 1 wherein the frame is not buoyant.
- 1 17. The sailing craft of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a torsion box structure.
- 1 18. The sailing craft of claim 1 wherein each of the wheels provide at least one of steering,  
2 tracking, and floatation.
- 1 19. The sailing craft of claim 18 wherein each of the wheels provide at least two of steering,  
2 tracking, and floatation.
- 1 20. The sailing craft of claim 19 wherein at least one wheel provides all of steering, tracking,  
2 and floatation.
- 1 21. A method for constructing a sailing craft, comprising the steps of:  
2 assembling a frame suitable for supporting a sailor;  
3 affixing a sail to the frame;  
4 positioning buoyant wheels on one side of the frame; and  
5 positioning buoyant wheels on the opposite side of the frame.
- 1 21. A kit for assembling a sailing craft, comprising:  
2 parts capable of assembly into a frame suitable for supporting a sailor;  
3 mountings configured to affix a main sail to the frame; and  
4 buoyant wheels suitable for positioning on the frame.

- 1        22.     The kit of claim 21, wherein the parts comprise at least one part selected from the  
2        set of rods, tubing, bolts, and connectors.
- 1       23.     A sailing craft, comprising:  
2        a frame in the shape of a cross;  
3        a main sail affixed to the frame;  
4        at least four buoyant wheels each positioned near an end of the cross.
- 1       24.     A buoyant wheel for use on a sailing craft, comprising:  
2        a rim configured for mounting on an axle such that the wheel rotates about the axle;  
3        a buoyant body portion affixed to the rim; and  
4        a fin about the perimeter of the body configured to provide at least one of tracking and  
5        steering.
- 1       25.     The wheel of claim 22 wherein the fin is affixed to the body.
- 1       26.     The wheel of claim 23 wherein the fin is integral with the body.
- 1       27.     The wheel of claim 24 further comprising a second fin about the perimeter of the body  
2        configured to further provide at least one of tracking and steering.
- 1       28.     A sailing craft comprising a frame for supporting a sailor, a deck, a main sail, and two or  
2        more wheels rotating about an axle, each respective axle affixed to the frame.
- 1       29.     The sailing craft of claim 28 wherein one or more of the wheels are affixed such that they  
2        can be turned with respect to the direction of the craft.
- 1       30.     The sailing craft of claim 28 wherein one or more of the wheels are buoyant.
- 1       31.     The sailing craft of claim 28 wherein one or more of the wheels each have one or more  
2        fins about the respective wheel.
- 1       32.     The sailing craft of claim 28 wherein one or more of the wheels are configured to plane at  
2        increased sailing speeds.